8. Significance

Period

___ prehistoric
___ 1400–1499
___ 1500–1599
___ 1600–1699
___ 1700–1799
_X_ 1800–1899
___ 1900–

Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

___ archeology-prehistoric
___ archeology-historic
_X_ agriculture
___ architecture
___ art
___ commerce
___ communications
___ community planning
___ conservation
___ economics
___ education
___ engineering
___ exploration/settlement
___ industry
___ invention
___ landscape architecture
_X_ law
___ literature
___ military
___ music
___ philosophy
_X_ politics/government
___ religion
___ science
___ sculpture
_X_ social/ humanitarian
___ theater
___ transportation
___ other (specify)

Specific dates 1892-1894 **Builder/Architect** Truman I. Lacey, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Designed by a locally significant architect, Truman I. Lacey, Carbondale City Hall is an excellent example of a Romanesque Revival building, a style of building not commonly found in northeastern Pennsylvania. As the city hall and courthouse, this structure has been and continues to be the most important public building in the City of Carbondale. From 1894 to the present, Carbondale City Hall has served as the seat of local government functions and as a community cultural center.

The two-story wing of Carbondale City Hall (see paragraph 4 of "Description") served a highly important function not only in the history of the city of Carbondale, but also in the history of northeastern Pennsylvania. From 1859 to 1894, it housed the executive and legislative branches of the city government. From 1859 to December 31, 1875, in addition, it housed one of the earliest judicial bodies established in northeastern Pennsylvania: the Carbondale City Court. This court, established by the city charter (approved March 15, 1851), was styled the recorder's court and was presided over by the president judge of the judicial district, sitting as recorder, assisted by the mayor and such of the aldermen as might be present. This court had concurrent jurisdiction with the county courts, except in oyer and terminer cases and in cases belonging to the orphan's court. Its jurisdiction extended at times over Fell, Carbondale, Blakely and Greenfield Townships. By the operation of the Constitution of 1873, the mayor's court was abolished on December 31, 1875. From 1894 to the present day, Lacey's 1892-1894 Carbondale City Hall has been the home of the executive and legislative branches of the city government. When the building was opened in 1894, its public rooms were occupied as follows: one large room for common council, one large room for select council, one very large room for a public hall, one room for poor department, one room for board of health, one room for board of assessors, one room for mayor's office, one room for city treasurer, one room for city controller, one room for city clerk, five rooms for jailor's family, three rooms for prisoners, four large vaults for the safety of the public records. The importance of Carbondale City Hall in the history of Carbondale and in the history of northeastern Pennsylvania is further underlined by the fact that various rooms in the building served, in the past, as the Carbondale Post Office, the Carbondale Public Library, Town Public Hall, and Town Concert Hall. In addition, the offices of leading business and professional men and women in the history of Carbondale and the offices of important local societies and clubs (the Lackawanna Club, the Lackawanna Medical Society) were, at one time, located in Carbondale City Hall. The architect who designed and supervised the construction of Carbondale City Hall, Truman I. Lacey, was born in West Auburn, PA, and died, in 1914, in Binghamton, NY. In 1872, he established in Binghamton the architectural firm of Truman I. Lacey & Son. The buildings designed and constructed by Truman I. Lacey & Son in the period 1872-1914 are among the most important buildings in northeastern Pennsylvania and in southeastern New York (Broome County). Some of the buildings designed and constructed by Truman I. Lacey & Son, in addition to Carbondale City Hall, are: Security Mutual Building, Press Building, Kilmer Building, Kalurah Temple, all in Binghamton, NY; Hotel American, Carbondale, PA; St. James' Church, Johnson City, NY.